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VIII.—THE HISTORY OF FRENCH FABLE MANUSCRIPTS.

Although French fable literature played a prominent part in the evolution of the Æsopic Fable in the Middle Ages, no general account of its history and development has as yet been written by any modern scholar. Single collections of French fables dating from this period have been published from time to time in more or less critical editions, and certain phases of the more general field have been investigated by various scholars, but it is believed that the present paper may justly claim to be the first general survey of Old French Fable Literature within certain well-defined limits.

The special object here held in view will be to give a succinct bibliographical account of all the manuscripts at present known to contain collections of Æsopic fables in the vernacular of North France, while attempting more particularly to trace their history as far back as may be towards the Middle Ages. It would of course be too much to expect of a first attempt of this sort that any great degree of completeness should be attained, or that no errors of fact should have crept in, but the detailed statements given are intended as a general guide to the investigator in this field who is interested in the original manuscripts themselves.

The facts here presented have been noted down as opportunity offered since October, 1891, and they have been obtained in many different ways, especially by personal research in the Bibliothèque Royale at Brussels, the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris, and the Library of Congress at Washington. Whenever feasible the various items of fact here given have been obtained at first hand, but in many instances it was unfortunately necessary to rely on other sources of information.

It would be impracticable in a bibliographical article such as this to give all the pertinent references to printed works from which facts have been obtained, and therefore only data as to manuscript sources have been included in the foot-notes; while acknowledgments to the various European and American scholars who have been of assistance from time to time can only be hereby made in this very general way.

In general it may be stated that the evidence which we can bring to bear on a problem of this sort may most conveniently be divided into three categories: (1) the extant manuscripts themselves; (2) the constructive manuscripts inferred from internal evidence; and (3) the descriptions found in Mediæval catalogues, inventories, and accounts. It may well be added that it is very probable that the last two categories of evidence mentioned still offer great opportunities for further investigation on the part of the modern scholar.

List of Extant Manuscripts.

I. (Ab. 1175 A. D.) Marie de France, *Esope.*

1. Bruxelles, Bibliothèque Royale, 10296 (since 1837 = ms. restored to the Bibliothèque de Bourgogne in Bruxelles by the French in 1815 = ms. transferred to the Bibliothèque Nationale from the Dépôt des ci-devant Cordeliers in Paris in 1796 = ms. taken from the Bibliothèque de Bourgogne in Bruxelles by the orders of the Convention Nationale in 1794 = ms. of Albert et Isabelle, † 1621 and 1633 = ms. of Marguérite d'Autriche, † 1530 = ms. bought by Marguérite d'Autriche from Charles de Croy, Prince de Chimay, in 1491[1] = ms. with autograph of Charles de Croy, Conte de Chimay from 1482 to 1486 = ms. copied by Jehan Wag' in Picardy, 1428.) Vidimus, June 24, 25 and 26, 1897.
2. Cambridge, University Library, Ee. 6. 11. (= 2. 7. 8, ab. 1750 = #. D. Θ. 8, ab. 1650 = Lib: 30, Class: 9 Or., ab. 1640 = Lib: 31, ab. 1625 = 181, in 1600 = ms. copied ab. 1225.)
3. Chantilly, Musée Condé, 1330. (= ms. of Henri d'Orléans, Duc d'Aumale, † 1897, purchased from J.-J. Techener ab. 1858, kept at Twickenham near London until ab. 1871, when it was removed

[1] See Lille, Bibliothèque Municipale, B. 1511, fo 382.

to Chantilly = MS of J.-J. Techener when described by Paulin Paris in 1857 = MS. copied near Besançon or Luxeuil ab. 1250.) The reference to this MS. was found by G. C. Keidel in the Library of Congress in 1906.

4. London, Library of the British Museum, Cotton Vespasian B. XIV. (= MS. of Sir Robert Cotton, † 1631 = MS. copied in England ab. 1290.)
5. London, Library of the British Museum, Harl. 978. (= MS. of Sir Robert Harley, † 1724 = MS. probably copied in the Abbey of Reading, Berkshire, England, ab. 1250.)
6. London, Library of the British Museum, Harl. 4333. (= MS. of Sir Robert Harley, † 1724 = MS. copied by a French scribe ab. 1250.)
7. Oxford, Bodleian Library, 21706. (= Douce 132, in 1834 = MS. of Fr. Douce before 1820 = MS. of an old library at Edwardstone near Sudbury, Suffolk, England = MS. copied ab. 1300.)
8. Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, fr. 3142. (= anc. B. L. F. 175 = MS. of the Comte d'Artois, in 1793 = MS. of the Marquis de Paulmy, B. L. 1622, † 1787 = Duc de la Vallière Sale, in 1786 = L. J. Gaignat Sale, 1750 for ℔. 200–2, in 1769 = MS. of J.-B. Denis Guyon de Sardière, 527, in 1759 = MS. known to Sainte-Palaye and the Comte de Caylus, ab. 1740 = MS. copied ab. 1290.) Vidimus, Aug. 7 and 9, 1897.
9. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 1446 (since 1860 = anc. 7834·3·3 = Fonds Colbert 1436, in 1732[1] = MS. of J.-B. Colbert, † 1683 = MS. copied ab. 1325.) Vidimus, July 20, 1897.
10. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 1593 (since 1860 = anc. 7615, in 1682[2] = MS. of Claude Fauchet, † 1601 = MS. from which a poem was copied by Claude Fauchet about 1596 and published by Antoine Loisel, † 1617 = MS. with note by Claude Fauchet at the bottom of fo 1 ro: "C'est a moy Claude Fauchet, pour eschange fait avec M. de Roissi contre une cronique françoise" = MS. of M. de Roissi (Henri de Mesmes), † 1596 = MS. copied ab. 1250, but never completed by the rubricator.) Vidimus, July 7, 8 and 20, 1897.
11. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 1822 (since 1860 = anc. 7856·3·3 = Fonds Colbert 4154, in 1732[3] = MS. of J.-B. Colbert, † 1683 = MS. copied ab. 1290.) Vidimus, July 21, 1897.

[1] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, nouv. acq. fr. 5692, fo 166 b.

[2] Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, fr. 2768, contains copies made from this MS. (Vidimus, Aug. 3 and 4, 1897.)

[3] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, nouv. acq. fr. 5692, fo 358a.

12. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 2168 (since 1860 = anc. 7989·[2] = Fonds Baluze 572, in 1719 = MS. of Étienne Baluze, † 1718 = MS. copied ab. 1250.) Vidimus, July 21, 1897.
13. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 2173 (since 1860 = anc. 7991, in 1682 = MS. of Hippolyte de Béthune, † 1665 = MS. copied ab. 1350.) Vidimus, July 21, 1897.
14. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 4939 (since 1860 = anc. 9616, in 1682 = MS. of Florimont Robertet, † 1522 = MS. of Deciternes = MS. copied ab. 1500.) Vidimus, July 26, 1897.
15. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 12603 (since 1860 = Supplément fr. 180, in 1820 = ? MS. of the Bibliothèque de Bourgogne at Bruxelles taken to the Bibliothèque Royale at Paris by the orders of Louis XV, in 1748 = MS. of Marguérite d'Autriche, † 1530 = MS. bought by Marguérite d'Autriche from Charles de Croy, Prince de Chimay, in 1491[1] = MS. of Charles de Croy, Conte de Chimay from 1482 to 1486 = MS. copied ab. 1300.) Vidimus, July 20, 1897.
16. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 14971 (since 1860 = Supplément fr. 632·[28], in 1820 = Inventaire de Gérard 676, in 1797 = MS. transferred to the Bibliothèque Nationale from the Dépôt des ci-devant Cordeliers at Paris, in 1796 = MS. taken from the Bibliothèque de Bourgogne at Bruxelles by the orders of the Convention Nationale, in 1794 = Inventaire de Franken 497, in 1731 = Inventaire de Viglius 465, in 1577[2] = MS. described in the Inventaire de 1556 = MS. described in the Inventaire de 1536 = Inventoire des Livres et Volumes en la Chambre de la Garde des Joyaulx, Brouxelles, Nov. 15, 1487, No. 468[3] = Inventoire de la Librarie qui est en la Maison à Bruges, No. 661, ab. 1467[3] = Inventoire des Livres Roumans de Philippe le Hardi fait à Paris, Mar. 20, 1404, No. 12[4] = MS. copied ab. 1350.) Vidimus, July 23, 1897.
17. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 19152 (since 1860 = Fonds St.-Germain, fr. 1239, ab. 1800[5] = Abbaye de St.-Germain des Prés, No. 1830, ab. 1740 = Abbaye de St.-Germain des Prés, Fonds Coislin, ab. 1731 = MS. of H.-C. du Cambout de Coislin, No. 733·[2], † 1735[6] = MS. of Pierre Séguier, † 1672[7] = MS. copied ab. 1300.) Vidimus, July 23, 1897.

[1] See Lille, Bibliothèque Municipale, B. 1511, fo 382.

[2] Described in Bruxelles, Bibliothèque Royale, 11675–11676, fo 171 vo. (Vidimus, June 25, 1897.)

[3] Lille, Archives de l'ancienne Chambre des Comptes.

[4] Dijon, Archives de l'ancienne Chambre des Comptes.

[5] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, nouv. acq. fr. 5457, p. 39.

[6] See MS. catalogue formerly in the Abbaye de St.-Germain des Prés.

[7] Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 2105 was copied from this MS. ab. 1650.

18. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 24310 (since 1860 = Fonds Navarre 85, ab. 1800 = Collège de Navarre 356, in 1741[1] = Bibliotheca regia Navarræ, A. 6. 356, in 1708[2] = MS. with note: "Pro libraria regalis collegii Campaniæ alias Navarræ" = MS. copied ab. 1450.) Vidimus, July 23, 1897.
19. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 24428 (since 1860 = Fonds Notre-Dame 193, in 1756 = Notre-Dame de Paris, Fol. M18, bef. 1756[3] = MS. of Claude Joly, † 1680 = MS. of Antoine Loisel, † 1617 = MS. of Mestre Nicolas de Lessy in 1412, when he lent it to Frere Jehan Cotusse, gardien des Freres Mineurs de Sens = MS. copied ab. 1270 from an original written by Omons in 1265.) Vidimus, July 23, 1897.
20. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 25405 (since 1860 = Fonds Notre-Dame 242·[1], in 1756 = Notre-Dame de Paris, 4to E6, bef. 1756[4] = MS. with note by J. Besly, † 1644 = MS. with note by Claude Fauchet, † 1601 = MS. of Étienne Pasquier, bef. 1581 = MS. copied ab. 1350, although a note on one of the fly-leaves gives the date as 1204.) Vidimus, July 24, 1897.
21. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 25406 (since 1860 = Fonds Notre-Dame 192, in 1756 = Notre-Dame de Paris, Fol. M17—also erroneously given as M7, or M27—bef. 1756[5] = MS. of Claude Joly, † 1680 = MS. of Antoine Loisel, † 1617 = MS. with note by Claude Fauchet, † 1601 = MS. of Frere Joham Cholet, ab. 1450 = MS. copied ab. 1290.) Vidimus, July 24, 1897.
22. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 25545 (since 1860 = Fonds Notre-Dame 274·[2], in 1756 = Notre-Dame de Paris, 4to N2, bef. 1756[6] = MS. copied ab. 1325.) Vidimus, July 10, 12, 15 and 26, 1897.

[1] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, lat. 9371, fo 15b.

[2] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Mazarine, 4161 (olim 3137), p. 225.

[3] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, 4629 (olim 839 F), p. 179.

[4] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, 4629 (olim 839 F), p. 193.

[5] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, 4629 (olim 839 F), p. 179.

[6] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, 4629 (olim 839 F), pp. 202–204. This MS. is also mentioned in the autograph MS. of Étienne Barbazan, Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, fr. 3519, pp. 150–151 (Vidimus, Aug. 14, 1897), and in Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, fr. 2765, fo 1 ro (Vidimus, Aug. 2, 1897). Moreover, Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, fr. 3123, contains copies made from this MS. (Vidimus, Aug. 5, 1897).

23. Roma, Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana, Ottoboni 3064. (= MS. deposited in the Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana by Pope Benedict XIV, in 1740 = MS. which Pope Alexander VIII purchased from Queen Christina of Sweden and presented to the Ottoboni family of Rome in 1689 = MS. which Queen Christina of Sweden purchased from Alexandre Petau, in 1650 = MS. of Alexandre Petau, No. 567, in 1650 [1] = MS. of Paul Petau, † 1614 = MS. with note by Claude Fauchet, † 1601 = ? MS. of Pierre Daniel, † 1603 = ? MS. of the Abbaye de Fleury-sur-Loire, in 1562 = MS. copied ab. 1400.)
24. York, Minster Library, XVI. K. 12. 1. (= MS. twice brought to Coburg, Germany, by Herzog Alfred von Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, ab. 1895 = MS. copied in England ab. 1225.)

II. (Ab. 1200 A. D.) AVIONNET DE YORK.

1. York, Minster Library, XVI. K. 12. 1. (= MS. twice brought to Coburg, Germany, by Herzog Alfred von Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, ab. 1895 = MS. copied in England ab. 1225.)

III. (Ab. 1250 A. D.) AVIONNET DE PARIS.

1. Bruxelles, Bibliothèque Royale, 11193 (since 1837 = MS. restored to the Bibliothèque de Bourgogne in Bruxelles by the French in 1815 = Inventaire de Gérard 676, in 1797 = MS. transferred to the Bibliothèque Nationale from the Dépôt des ci-devant Cordeliers in Paris in 1796 = MS. taken from the Bibliothèque de Bourgogne in Bruxelles by the orders of the Convention Nationale in 1794 = Inventaire de Franken 458, in 1731 = Inventaire de Viglius 876, or 875, or 821, in 1577 [2] = MS. of Marguérite d'Autriche, † 1530 = MS. bought by Marguérite d'Autriche from Charles de Croy, Prince de Chimay, in 1491 [3] = MS. with autograph of Charles de Croy, Conte de Chimay from 1482 to 1486 = MS. copied ab. 1365.) Vidimus, June 24, 25 and 26, 1897.
2. London, Library of the British Museum, Addit. 33781. (= Grenville XIII, in 1848 = Payne and Foss cat., I. 8, in 1843 = MS. described in Fr. Douce's letter to Thos. Grenville, received Mar. 28, 1816 = MS. copied ab. 1345.)
3. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 1594 (since 1860 = anc. 7616, in 1682 = anc. 842 = anc. 1333, ab. 1650 = MS. copied ab. 1325.) Vidimus, July 27, 1897.

[1] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, lat. 9372.

[2] Described in Bruxelles, Bibliothèque Royale, 11675–11676, fo 224 ro. (Vidimus, June 26, 1897.)

[3] See Lille, Bibliothèque Municipale, B. 1511, fo 382.

4. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 1595 (since 1860 = anc. 7616·[3] = Fonds Cangé 106, in 1733 = MS. of Châtre de Cangé, bef. 1733 = MS. copied ab. 1450.) Vidimus, July 28, 1897.
5. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 19123 (since 1860 = Fonds St.-Germain, fr. 1622, ab. 1800[1] = Abbaye de St.-Germain des Prés 2287, ab. 1740 = Abbaye de St.-Germain des Prés, Fonds Coislin, ab. 1731 = MS. of H.-C. du Cambout de Coislin, No. 78·[2], † 1735[2] = MS. of Pierre Séguier, † 1672 = MS. copied ab. 1450.) Vidimus, July 28, 1897.
6. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 24310 (since 1860 = Fonds Navarre 85, ab. 1800 = Collège de Navarre 356, in 1741[3] = Bibliotheca regia Navarræ, A. 6. 356, in 1708[4] = MS. with note: "Pro libraria regalis collegii Campaniæ alias Navarræ" = MS. copied ab. 1450.) Vidimus, July 23, 1897.

IV. (Ab. 1250 A. D.) YSOPET DE CHARTRES.

1. Chartres, Bibliothèque Municipale, 620. (= anc. 261 = MS. of Chapitre de la Cathédrale de Chartres = MS. copied ab. 1250.)

V. (Ab. 1250 A. D.) YSOPET DE LYON.

1. Lyon, Bibliothèque de l'Académie, 57. (= MS. in the Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon from 1793 to 1825 = MS. described in Delandine's catalogue, 673, in 1812 = MS. in the Bibliothèque de l'Académie de Lyon, bef. 1793 = MS. of Pierre Adamoli, † 1769 = MS. with name of original owner which was later erased, ab. 1290 = MS. copied in the Franche-Comté ab. 1290.)

VI. (Ab. 1270 A. D.) YSOPET DE CHELTENHAM.

1. Cheltenham, Phillipps Library, 16230. (= Middlehill, Phillipps Library, 16230, until 1862 = G. Libri Sale in 1859, No. 58 = E.-F. Corpet Sale in 1858, No. 840 = MS. of Masson de Saint-Amand, in 1805 = ? MS. of Évreux, Bibliothèque Municipale, ab. 1795 = MS. of an "abbaye près de Paris" in 1407 = MS. copied in the Eastern part of Normandy ab. 1275.)

VII. (Ab. 1325 A. D.) AVIONNET DE MILAN.

1. Milano, Biblioteca Ambrosiana, N. sup. 168. (= MS. copied by a North Italian scribe ab. 1325.)

VIII. (Ab. 1325 A. D.) YSOPET DE MILAN.

1. Milano, Biblioteca Ambrosiana, N. sup. 168. (= MS. copied by a North Italian scribe ab. 1325.)

[1] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, nouv. acq. fr. 5459, p. 22.
[2] See MS. catalogue formerly in the Abbaye de St.-Germain des Prés.
[3] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, lat. 9371, fo 15 b.
[4] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Mazarine, 4161 (olim 3137), p. 225.

IX. (Ab. 1325 A. D.) YSOPET I DE PARIS.

1. Bruxelles, Bibliothèque Royale, 11193 (since 1837 = MS. restored to the Bibliothèque de Bourgogne in Bruxelles by the French in 1815 = Inventaire de Gérard 676, in 1797 = MS. transferred to the Bibliothèque Nationale from the Dépôt des ci-devant Cordeliers in Paris in 1796 = MS. taken from the Bibliothèque de Bourgogne in Bruxelles by the orders of the Convention Nationale in 1794 = Inventaire de Franken 458, in 1731 = Inventaire de Viglius 876, or 875, or 821, in 1577[1] = MS. of Marguérite d'Autriche, † 1530 = MS. bought by Marguérite d'Autriche from Charles de Croy, Prince de Chimay, in 1491[2] = MS. with autograph of Charles de Croy, Conte de Chimay from 1482 to 1486 = MS. copied ab. 1365.) Vidimus, June 24, 25 and 26, 1897.
2. London, Library of the British Museum, Addit. 33781. (= Grenville XIII, in 1848 = Payne and Foss cat., I. 8, in 1843 = MS. described in Fr. Douce's letter to Thos. Grenville, received Mar. 28, 1816 = MS. copied ab. 1345.)
3. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 1594 (since 1860 = anc. 7616, in 1682 = anc. 842 = anc. 1333, ab. 1650 = MS. copied ab. 1325.) Vidimus, July 27, 1897.
4. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 1595 (since 1860 = anc. 7616·3 = Fonds Cangé 106, in 1733 = MS. of Châtre de Cangé, bef. 1733 = MS. copied ab. 1450.) Vidimus, July 28, 1897.
5. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 19123 (since 1860 = Fonds St.-Germain, fr. 1622, ab. 1800[3] = Abbaye de St.-Germain des Prés 2287, ab. 1740 = Abbaye de St.-Germain des Prés, Fonds Coislin, ab. 1731 = MS. of H.-C. du Cambout de Coislin, No. 78·2, † 1735[4] = MS. of Pierre Séguier, † 1672 = MS. copied ab. 1450.) Vidimus, July 28, 1897.
6. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 24310 (since 1860 = Fonds Navarre 85, ab. 1800 = Collège de Navarre 356, in 1741[5] = Bibliotheca regia Navarræ, A. 6. 356, in 1708[6] = MS. with note: "Pro libraria regalis collegii Campaniæ alias Navarræ" = MS. copied ab. 1450.) Vidimus, July 23, 1897.

X. (1332 A. D.) JEHAN DE VIGNAY, *Ysopet de la Mireoir Historial* (Livre IV, chap. 2–8).

1. Besançon, Bibliothèque Municipale, 434. (= MS. sent to the

[1] Described in Bruxelles, Bibliothèque Royale, 11675–11676, fo 224 ro. (Vidimus, June 26, 1897.)

[2] See Lille, Bibliothèque Municipale, B. 1511, fo 382.

[3] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, nouv. acq. fr. 5459, p. 22.

[4] See MS. catalogue formerly in the Abbaye de St.-Germain des Prés.

[5] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, lat. 9371, fo 15 b.

[6] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Mazarine, 4161 (olim 3137), p. 225.

Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris to be photographed by Dr. M. P. Brush, in 1905 = anc. 117, H. 19 = MS. in Besançon, Abbaye de St. Vincent, in 1739 = MS. of Abbé J.-B. Boisot, No. 4, in 1664 = MS. of Antoine Perrenot, Cardinal de Granvelle, † 1586 = MS. taken from the Librairie du Louvre, bef. 1424[1] = Librairie du Louvre, Inventaire de 1413, No. 145[2] = Librairie du Louvre, Inventaire de 1411, No. 149[3] = Librairie du Louvre, Inventaire de Gilles Mallet dressé en 1373 et récolé en 1380 par Jean Blanchet, No. 238, or 241[4] = MS. with note by Charles V, King of France, stating that it was copied by his orders in 1372.)

2. Leiden, Universiteits-Bibliotheek, Vossianus gallicus, folio 3 A. (= MS. of Isaac Vossius, † 1689 = MS. referred to in Librairie du Louvre, Inventaire de 1413, note written ab. 1415: "Le duc de Guienne manda à Jean Maulin et à J. le Bègue de bailler ces quatre volumes à mons. de Bavière"[5] = Librairie du Louvre, Inventaire de 1413, No. 4[6] = Librairie du Louvre, Inventaire de 1411, No. 4[7] = Librairie du Louvre, Inventaire de Gilles Mallet dressé en 1373 et récolé en 1380 par Jean Blanchet, No. 17[8] = MS. bound for Charles V, King of France, in 1377[9] = MS. with note by Charles V, King of France, ab. 1365 = MS. of Jean II le Bon, King of France, in 1364 = MS. with note by Jehan, duc de Normendie et de Guienne, ab. 1340–1345 = MS. copied ab. 1340.)
3. London, Library of the British Museum, Royal 14. E. I. (= MS. known to David Casley, in 1734 = MS. copied for Henry VII, King of England, at Bruges, ab. 1500.[10])
4. London, Library of Henry Yates Thompson, 19 Portman Square, W. (= MS. bought by Quaritch for £1290, in 1906 = MS. at Sotheby Sale, Dec. 14–15, 1906 = Inventoire de la Librarie qui

[1] Missing in the Inventaire de 1424: Paris, Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, Q. 5. f.; Paris, Bibliothèque Mazarine, H1934.

[2] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 9430.

[3] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 2700.

[4] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 2700 (No. 238), and Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Fonds Baluze 397 (No. 241).

[5] See Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 9430, fo 1 vo.

[6] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 9430.

[7] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 2700.

[8] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 2700, and in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Fonds Baluze 397.

[9] See Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Fonds Clairambault, Sceaux 216, p. 9667, dated at Vincennes, Nov. 23, 1377.

[10] This MS. was probably copied from the MS. described in the Inventoire de la Librarie qui est en la Maison à Bruges, No. 181, ab. 1467, preserved among the Archives de l'Ancienne Chambre des Comptes at Lille. See next item below.

est en la Maison à Bruges, No. 181, ab. 1467[1] = MS. referred to in a note written ab. 1450: "Madame a ces III livres en prest"[2] = Inventoire de Marguerite de Bavière made at Dijon by Jehan de Quielent, Jan. 25, 1423, No. 1[3] = Inventoire de Dijon in 1420, No. 149 = MS. referred to in note: "Donné au duc de Bourgogne, le 9 février 1413" = Inventoire de 1413, No. 123[4] = MS. restored to Jean, Duc de Berry, by the Prevost de Paris as a gift from Charles VI, King of France, ab. 1410 = Inventoire de 1402, No. 943[5] = MS. confiscated by the Prevost de Paris = MS. of Messire Jehan de Montagu, † 1409 = MS. of Jean, Duc de Berry = MS. copied ab. 1375.)

5. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 50 (since 1860 = anc. 6731, in 1682 = anc. 542 = Fontainebleau, Librairie de François I, in 1523 = MS. confiscated by François I from the Connétable de Bourbon, No. 164, in 1523 = Moulins, Librairie du Duc de Bourbon, 1488–1523 = MS. of Pierre de Beaujeu, 1477–1488 = MS. confiscated by Louis XI from Jacques d'Armagnac, duc de Nemours, when he was beheaded in 1477 = MS. copied by Gilles Gracien for Jacques d'Armagnac, duc de Nemours, in 1463.
6. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 308 (since 1860 = anc. 6930, in 1682 = anc. 257 = MS. finished before Sept. 6, 1455.)
7. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 312 (since 1860 = anc. 6934, in 1682 = anc. 62 = Inventaire de Livres appartenant au duc d'Orléans: Livres à recouvrer, No. 26 ab. 1440,[6] = MS. referred to in the Compte Messire Jehan de Rochechouart, June 1, 1427, No. 2[7] = Inventaire de la librairie de Blois, May 31, 1427, No. 32 = Inventaire de la librairie de Blois by P. Renoul in May, 1417, No. 33[8] = MS. illuminated for Louis, Duc d'Orléans, under the supervision of Thevenin Angevin by Jan. 3, 1396[9] = MS. copied for Louis, Duc d'Orléans, under the supervision of Thevenin Angevin by Raoulet d'Orliens by Feb. 12, 1395. This MS. is now exhibited in the Galerie Mazarine, x. 27.) Vidimus, July 16, 1897.
8. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 316 (since 1860 = anc. 6938, in 1682 = anc. 412 = MS. with note: "An se livre du premier volume du Vincent historial a hystoires XVI^XX," ab. 1450 = MS. with note: "Cest volume fu achevé l'an de grace mil CCC et xxxiii,

[1] Lille, Archives de l'ancienne Chambre des Comptes.
[2] See Inventoire de Dijon in 1420, No. 149.
[3] Lille, Archives de l'ancienne Chambre des Comptes.
[4] Described in Paris, Archives Nationales, reg. KK258.
[5] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 11496.
[6] Described in Paris, Archives Nationales, reg. K534.
[7] Described in Paris, Archives Nationales, reg. K269.
[8] Described in Paris, Archives Nationales, reg. K534.
[9] Described in Paris, Archives Joursanvault, No. 839.

la veille sainte Katerine," *i. e.* Nov. 24 = MS. probably copied for Queen Jeanne de Bourgogne under the supervision of Jehan de Vignay himself, in 1333.)

9. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 6354 (since 1860 = Supplément fr. 46·[1], in 1820 = MS. bound with the monogram of Napoléon Ier, ab. 1810, indicating that it probably came from the library of an émigré at the time of the Revolution, ab. 1790 = MS. of Philippe, Comte de Béthune, in 1662 = MS. with the coats of arms of Tanneguy du Châtel, † 1477, and of his wife Jeanne Raguenel de Malestroit = MS. copied ab. 1450.)
10. Roma, Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana, Reg. 538 (= Reg. 675, in 1739 = MS. which Pope Alexander VIII purchased from Queen Christina of Sweden and deposited in the Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana in 1689 = MS. which Queen Christina of Sweden purchased from Alexandre Petau in 1650 [1] = MS. with note: "Alexander Pauli filius, senator Parisiensis, anno 1649" = MS. of Paul Petau, † 1614 = Inventaire de Prigent de Coëtivy, No. 1, in 1450 = MS. with note: "Dame sans per. A Prigent. Ce livre est a Prigent, seigneur de Rais, de Coëtivy et de Taillebourg, conseillier et chambellan du corps du roy et admiral de France," after 1443 = MS. of owner whose name has been erased, ab. 1440 = MS. copied ab. 1425.)

XI. (Ab. 1350 A. D.) Ysopet II de Paris.

1. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 15213 (since 1860 = Supplément fr. 766, in 1820 = MS. which was probably confiscated from an émigré at the time of the Revolution, ab. 1790 = MS. taken from the Librairie du Louvre bef. 1424 [2] = Librairie du Louvre, Inventaire de 1413, No. 74 [3] = Librairie du Louvre, Inventaire de 1411, No. 75 [4] = Librairie du Louvre, Inventaire de Gilles Mallet dressé en 1373 et récolé en 1380 par Jean Blanchet, No. 121, or 122 [5] = MS. copied ab. 1370.) Vidimus, July 29, 1897.
2. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 24432 (since 1860 = Fonds Notre-Dame 198, in 1756 = Notre-Dame de Paris, Fol. M21·[3], bef. 1756 = MS. of Perrenette de Pluvot = MS. of Denis Lucey, 1566 = MS. copied after 1332.) Vidimus, July 29, 1897.

[1] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, lat. 9372.

[2] Missing in the Inventaire de 1424: Paris, Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, Q. 5. f.; Paris, Bibliothèque Mazarine, H1934.

[3] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 9430.

[4] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 2700.

[5] Described in Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 2700 (No. 121), and Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, Fonds Baluze 397 (No. 122).

XII. (1479 A. D.) JULIEN MACHO, *Esopet en Françoys.*

1. Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Institut Royal de France, 4to. 145 (in 1828 = Paris, Première Bibliothèque de l'Hôtel de Ville, B. L. 147, ab. 1780 = MS. copied ab. 1480.)

XIII. (1482 A. D.) COLART MANSION, *Dyalogue des Creatures.*

1. Paris, Boutourline Sale in 1839, No. 483. (= MS. of Dmitri Petrovitch Boutourline, † 1850 = Catalogue of Boutourline Library in 1831, No. 77 = MS. of Francisque de Bethencourt, 28 desembre, 1628 = MS. of Francisque de Bethencourt's father, bef. 1628 = ? MS. of Marguérite d'Autriche, † 1530 = ? MS. bought by Marguérite d'Autriche from Charles de Croy, Prince de Chimay, in 1491[1] = MS. with autograph of Charles de Croy, Prince de Chimay after 1486, † 1521 = MS. copied by Bertoulet Lebrun, in 1482.)
2. Wien, Bibliotheca Palatina, 2572. (= olim Eug. f. 63 = MS. copied ab. 1485.)

XIV. (Ab. 1490 A. D.) YSOPET III DE PARIS.

1. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, fr. 983 (since 1860 = anc. 7304, in 1682 = anc. 816.1 = anc. mmcxcii = MS. of Charles IX, King of France, † 1574 = MS. with note : "Ce liure appartient a maistre Pierre Paulmier, examinateur de par le Roy nostre sire ou Chastelet de Paris," ab. 1500 = MS. copied ab. 1490.) Vidimus, July 29, 1897.

By way of conclusion a few general statements may be made concerning the bibliographical list just given.

The fourteen collections here described are contained in forty-nine separate and distinct manuscripts, some of which include two or three sets of fables. Of these manuscripts all but two, or perhaps three, are now in public libraries.

It is evident from the number of manuscripts which contain the fables of Marie de France that this collection was the most popular of them all in the Middle Ages.

A closer inspection will reveal certain other interesting facts. At present the majority of the manuscripts in question are preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris,

[1] See Lille, Bibliothèque Municipale, B. 1511, fo 382.

but in earlier centuries this was not the case. About two hundred years ago the library of Notre-Dame de Paris had five of the fable manuscripts, while in the sixteenth century Claude Fauchet seems to have owned four of them. Still earlier we find four of these manuscripts in the possession of Charles de Croy, Comte de Chimay (later Prince de Chimay).

Most of the manuscripts here enumerated were copied in France, a few of them in England and Belgium, and one in Italy. At the present time they are preserved in the libraries of France, England, Belgium, Holland, Austria, and Italy. It seems likely that a few more fable manuscripts will come to light in the future, but of all those copied in the Middle Ages probably one-half have already perished by fire or otherwise. That the statement just made is approximately true will appear by a consideration of the number of constructive manuscripts posited by the respective editors of those collections that have already been published.

In many cases it is extremely difficult to trace the history of the individual manuscripts for more than a century, and the further back we go the greater is the obscurity which surrounds them. Up to the present no manuscripts have been traced back to the twelfth or thirteenth centuries, but three to the fourteenth, and only eleven to the fifteenth century. Of the history of the remainder comparatively little is known, and even in the case of the others there are often large gaps in the line of library tradition as here recorded.

It is to be hoped that in the years to come still more light will be thrown by further investigations among the sources of French literature in the Middle Ages upon the attractive field of the Æsopic Fable, and it is the intention of the writer of the present article to treat somewhat fully at a later time of the descriptions of French fable manuscripts found in Mediæval catalogues, inventories, and accounts.

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